District Technology Committee Minutes

January 13, 2012

1. Check-in-TIES Review and Sharing (30 minutes)

Committee members shared highlights from the TIES conference and new tools, apps or resources that were presented. Some of popular topics included:

Apple Products

Twitter

Bring your own device

Google tools

Flipped classroom

TIES

One to One iPad initiatives

II. Technology Update from Marcus (15 minutes)

A new lab for staff development at PDC is being installed. This is needed for extensive training. An IPad cart at PDC and Mac Book Air to load apps were added and are being rolled out soon. Volume purchasing may make the need to use wiring to load apps on devices necessary

156 iMacs for graphic arts and design are being installed.

Mac mini for field techs and will allow some remote access.

Lab at high school will be deployed soon upstairs.

Training is important for field techs and will continue to support new products

Bridge plan submitted to Jeff, please review in Dropbox.

All teachers have local admin rights now.

Some buildings have tried taking off auto loading programs such as bulletin to speed up start up time.

III. WebEx Gaggle Introduction (30 minutes)

The committee participated in a webinar with Nathan from Gaggle.net. He shared many of the features of Gaggle.net including: Homework dropbox, Facebook type interface with teacher controls, and Gaggle Tube - filtered with opportunity to filter content, select favorites, embed in blog. Users can create multiple blogs - facilitate discussions. He thought there was a Moodle plug-in with their collection of widgets. A portal links allows quick access to other sites or platforms such as Moodle.

Students can view or create blogs and password protection is available. Schools are typically not going below 3rd grade with the blogging feature or individual email accounts. Each student typically has own account with email and password protected.

The other communication tools include: SMS text, IM chat feature and teachers are using this to send a quick messages. The student chat feature is monitored and language checked -- sender is id'd and not message if inappropriate content. Access controlled with students and COPA to protect children from inappropriate and offensive texts. Safety is a key feature.

**Committee Members’ Questions:**

* How does Gaggle merge or compliment Moodle. Can you use Gaggle email to access Moodle?
* How many users are currently enrolled?

* The lockers to store things would be helpful.
* Would staff be overwhelmed to have two platforms as teachers? Will students have access and feel comfortable?
* The report is that other teachers at the high school who want to use Moodle can make requests.
* COPA issues are always at play when dealing with social media.
* Each has their own benefit, with ease of use in interface for teachers.
* Subscription based and e-rated make it cost effective, but there is a cost.
* Posting assignments and reaches out automatically to students in place of a paper planner
* More intuitive to use gaggle, but what ages would this be best suited to?
* Gaggle would have been used more for students, but ...

IV. Apple TV Introduction from Russ R. (15 minutes)  
Russ Reetz demonstrated how Apple TV works to utilize iPads through a projector. The Apple TV unit sells for around $95 and requires HDMI input which newer projectors have in most cases.

The screen is easy to project after locking in place. Also, the instructor can have students share their screen with the class very quickly using mirroring.

IV. Tech Plan Review

Marcus shared bridge plan updates. The plan is ready with the addition of last month’s brainstorming session information updated.